



*from* the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee  
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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **EOC welcomes two new members**

**Columbia** – Senator Robert W. Hayes, Jr., of Rock Hill, and Charleston attorney Neil C. Robinson, Jr., have been appointed to serve on the SC Education Oversight Committee.

Senator Hayes, a Rock Hill attorney, has been appointed to serve as the representative from the Senate Education Committee. He fills the term vacated by Senator Warren Giese, who resigned from the committee in 2004. Senator Hayes is a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina and has served in the SC Senate since September 1991. Prior to that, he served in the SC House from 1985 to 1991.

Hayes is a partner in the Rock Hill law firm of Harrelson, Hayes, and Guyton. He serves on the boards of Guardian Fidelity Mortgage Corporation, Westminster Towers, and SC Bank & Trust of the Piedmont. He served as Board Chairman of the York County Red Cross in 2004, as well as Chairman of the Rock Hill United Way Campaign in 1992. Hayes received the SC Jaycees Outstanding Young American Award in 1990. From 1975-1980, Hayes was a member of the USA, 82nd Abn. Division and is currently a member of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

“Hayes’ vast intellect and strong passion for public education will serve the EOC and citizens of this State well,” stated Senator John Courson, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

Hayes and his wife Sarah have three children, Robert Wesley III, James Creighton, and Margaret Mellon.

Neil Robinson has been appointed to serve as the business representative of the President Pro Tempore of the SC Senate. He fills the unexpired term of Harry Lightsey, who resigned from the committee in early February 2005. Founder and Past President of the Charleston Education Network, a private, non-profit advocacy organization, Robinson is an attorney with Nexsen Pruet, LLC, specializing in real estate. He has served as President of the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition and the Clemson University Advancement Foundation. He has served on the South Carolina Tourism Council and the Governor’s Quality of Life Task Force.

Robinson received his Bachelor of Science degree from Clemson University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of SC. He served as Assistant Dean of the USC Law School in 1973. In 1984, Robinson started Robinson Wall & Hastie, P.A., a firm that merged in 1991 with Nexsen, Pruet, LLC. He has been recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*, *Chambers USA*, and *Who's Who in America*. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor David Beasley.

Robinson and his wife Vicki have three children, son, Neil, III (Trey), and daughters Hunter (Forstchen) and Taylor Elizabeth.

“There is no more pressing need in our State than the continued improvement of our public education programs,” stated Robinson. “There is a direct correlation between the success of public education and our future economic development.”

The EOC is an independent, non-partisan group made up of 18 educators, business persons, and elected officials who are appointed by the legislature and governor to monitor and review the implementation of the 1998 South Carolina Education Accountability Act, the Education Improvement Act, and the K-12 system.

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